



On Long Arm Peninsula, the development of facilities takes a back seat to trail development. As noted in the Analysis section of this report, the extensive areas of steep terrain combined with the 300' riparian buffer leaves very few developable sites. These development restrictions are particularly evident in the lower half of the peninsula where the land mass narrows significantly.

The vehicular entrance to Long Arm Peninsula will be located just west of the Linville River Bridge along Highway 126. The entry road will also provide the access required for the large lake front parcel retained by Crescent Resources. Current plans for the Crescent inholding call for development of a lodge and conference center. Beyond the entrance, a second ranger residence will be located along the entry road. The road quickly reaches a parking area that is close to the crossing point of the Lake James Trail. This parking area may be expanded in the future to provide trailhead parking for horse trail riders. The development of trailhead facilities for equestrians will only be provided if provisions are made to allow horses to use the future Gamelands area for access into the Pisgah National Forest.

The feasibility of providing horse trails within Lake James State Park was evaluated as part of the master planning process. Trail standards call for a minimum of 10 miles of trails for a satisfactory equestrian experience. This criteria was supported by local riders. To minimize erosion and preserve water quality, it would be necessary to limit equestrian trails to areas well upland of the Lake James shore line. The western reaches of the Center Parcel and Paddy Creek Peninsula provide the most appropriate locations. Within those areas, an out and back trail could provide only about seven miles of trail for riders. It was agreed that the best course of action is to plan for possible future trail head facilities within the park from which riders could then access extensive trails located in the Pisgah Forest west of the park land.

Along the secondary entrance drive, a tent camping area will be located about a quarter mile along the road, about the mid point to the Crescent inholding parcel. This camping area will provide 25 camp sites, all with tent pad, fire ring and lantern hook. Water service will be provided for each cluster of six to eight camp sites. A bathhouse will be provided outfitted with sinks, toilets and hot shower facilities.



Expanses of mature forests are more typical on the Long Arm Peninsula



Hiking trails will extend to the very tip of the Long Arm Peninsula



Multi-use trails will be designed to provide challenges for bike riders of all abilities



Boat access campsites are proposed for the park



Primitive campsites will be accessed by hike-only trails or by water

The extended, narrow character of the land form and the steeper slopes along the shore line have limited tree harvesting on the middle and southernmost portion of Long Arm Peninsula. These woodland areas provide great visual interest and there are extensive areas of high tree canopy and dense shade. Old logging roads are still prominent. The main logging road running along the ridgeline of the peninsula has been maintained and has a gentle gradient. Smaller roads out onto the secondary ridgelines have become more closed in as vegetation has begun to re-establish.

Trails on Long Arm will take advantage of these existing conditions where the road alignments can be appropriately redeveloped into trails. A central spine trail will run the full extent of the peninsula providing a gently graded trail that hikers and cyclists of all abilities can enjoy. Side trails running up and along the steeper slopes toward the water will provide a variety of levels of technical difficulty for riders and will allow hikers to take advantage of the great vistas from Long Arm back to the Black Mountains and across Lake James. Final trail alignments will be evaluated in the field.

Approaching the end of the peninsula, bike travel is restricted as you enter an 80-acre hike-only area. This area was created to provide a slower paced environment along the last fingers of land on Long Arm. Two primitive camping clusters are located in this area. The camping areas are sited outside of the 300' riparian buffer where sanitary sewer services could be located.

As a commitment to continuation of the traditions and heritage of generations of boaters on Lake James, boat camping areas will be established along the shores of Long Arm Peninsula. These camp sites will allow boaters to come to shore, moor their boat and camp on shore. Amenities present at typical primitive tent camping sites will be provided. The boat camp sites will be clustered at suitable sites and appropriately spaced to provide more private settings. Preliminary areas suitable for the development of boat camping have been identified through field evaluation and will be further refined by park staff. Four clusters of boat camping sites are proposed on Long Arm Peninsula, one of which will be located in the hike-only area. Motorized and non-motorized craft will be allowed to use these campsites. Park staff will service and monitor the boat camping sites from the water and from land trails.





Aerial view above the Linville Gorge looking southeast to Lake James and Long Arm Peninsula. The exposed rock face of Shortoff Mountain is in the left foreground.